

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:

09/854,437

Confirmation No. 7249

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Arani, Taghi T.

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Resource Authorization

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Technology Center 2100

Amendment & Response

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2004 (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 6), Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks. Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2. Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this Response. Remarks begin on page 7 of this Response.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.